

UPWARD THOUGHT

SEARCH



Explaining the prophecies and the scriptures to all who desire to hear them. (Mosiah 27:35-36)

Reply to Anonymous Bishop

By Rob • April 19, 2020

This post is in response to this post:
<http://anonymousbishop.com/2020/04>

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/11/trifling-with-souls/

which is in turn a response to Facebook posts I

have made. You can find a digest of those

here: <http://upwardthought.blogspot.com>

/2020/03/coronavirus.html

Labels

coronavirus

denver snuffer

I will address some of what you said in your recent post in hopes that: 1) I might help you see how your actions reveal a heart that is less honest than it could be, and 2) even if you refuse that, that others not be misled by the things you have said.

The Lord said: "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." (Luke 6:31) He also said: "...with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38)

A hallmark of honest people is that they are capable of applying the criticism they level on others towards themselves. In other words, they are self-consistent. This is the tool I will use to answer what you have said about me.

You said: "Crises present opportunities for self-interested people to sell their wares. Often it's an ideology that's for sale, fueled by a vain ambition to be popular or to feel important and validated...look closely enough and you'll find that the tokens being sold are of greater value to the seller than today's currency- they yield followers, flatterers, validators, comforters, listeners- in short POWER and VANITY."

I'm not sure how anyone who knows me could

make this claim. If I were seeking for popularity, I'm doing a really awful job. On my latest book "tour", I was barely able to find two venues to speak at, in spite of the fact that the Lord intervened to provide. Each had few attendees, and at least some of those told to me they were only there to find some fault with me. My willingness to say what I actually believe in spite of how others will react to it has led to an incredibly small readership. Even among these few, my guess is that most of them are crazy, and at least a portion of them only read what I write so they can find something to complain about or some reason to ignore me. The little correspondence I receive is evidence that supports my perspective. I receive at least nine staunchly negative pieces of feedback for every positive piece, and most of the time, the positive

pieces are from people who are clearly crazy.

It takes far less effort parroting what people want to hear than it does learning, living, and teaching the truth--which always tends to being massively unpopular. If I do what I do for the reasons you've stated, I am going about it the most foolish way possible. Clearly, you question my motives, but have I given you any reason to think I am such an idiot?

NOTHING I have done gives me power over anyone. In fact, my consistent message has been that all preachers ought to seek to be redundant (for example, [here](#)) and I have exercised immense effort into living according to that goal.

Meanwhile, applying the Lord's test, I wonder if

you have applied this same standard to yourself and others like Denver Snuffer? I have not sought for power. Who has? I have not told people what they want to hear. Who has? I have not gained a numerous, sycophantic following. Who has? I have not done my works in secret. Who has? I have not said one thing and done another. Who has? Are you preaching against him/them as vehemently as you are against me? Have you said anything about them at all? What does this suggest about the honesty of your claims?

You said: "Fear is the opposite of faith. When fear is your product, you stand to make tremendous gains. Somehow because you sell fear, those who buy into it will also trust you to get them through it. You set yourself up, people

look to you, and you extract your needed coin from the sycophants you produce."

If what you are implying is that those with faith shouldn't say things that produce fear, it makes me wonder what version of the scriptures you are reading. Because I know that those parts are still in the Snuffer version, I have to wonder if you are reading them at all. Would you say this to Jeremiah, to Isaiah, to Malachi, to Ezekiel, to Lehi, to Nephi, to--this could be a very long list!

Fear is a reaction of the faithless. It's presence is not evidence of a false messenger, but of a people that do not trust God. If you do not trust God, while I feel bad for you, I stand free and clear of fault for that outcome. I have dedicated my life to helping people have more trust in God,

not less. The theme is a main topic on this blog and in my books, particularly the most recent one on how to have joy and happiness through Jesus Christ.

I think I've already made clear that I have no sycophants. Just as when the Lord loved the rich man who thought he was doing everything he needed to, he tends to show people what they lack when they approach him, and for that reason, any that pop up don't last very long. I can't name a single person I know who doesn't strongly disagree with something I teach. Not one.

As far as "coin" goes: 1) I not only do not "need" public recognition, I loathe it. Every time I write something, I pray that someone else has written

it first so that I don't need to say it. I do what I do because I love people and I love God. I would love nothing more but to be able to sleep as much as a normal person sleeps, to have the same amount of time with my family as normal people do, and to not know that I am near-universally hated. 2) The only coin I receive for my work comes from God. Your blog post is a typical example of the coin I receive from men. I'm sure that wouldn't motivate you, and it doesn't motivate me.

Applying the Lord's test, I wonder if you have applied this same standard to yourself and others like Denver Snuffer? I have not asked for and do not tolerate people acting servile toward me. Who has? I have not offered advantage to those who seek my favor. Who has? I have not

organized large speaking tours and have no professionally produced website, videos, or book covers. Who does? I have not taught that authority is something that can be conferred nor claimed that I am the only one who can do so. Who has? I have not amassed even one person (that I know of) who thinks I can do no wrong and would justify my every move, no matter how clearly wrong it is. Who has? Are you preaching against him/them as vehemently as you are against me? Have you said anything about them at all? What does this suggest about the honesty of your claims?

You said: "If and when only 50,000 to 100,000 people die from the Corona Virus this year in the U.S. for example, will this individual admit he was wrong? Will he repent for trifling with souls

and ask for your forgiveness? Will he reimburse you for the extra toilet paper or other supplies you bought? Or will he compensate you for sleepless nights and other distress you experienced imagining 180,000,000 people dying? Wondering who in your own family might die...More importantly, will YOU cease to give your time to such foolishness? Will YOU see this as a fruit of a false messenger and repent of your false belief?"

First, I never said "this year" or even "a year." [1] I have said the opposite--that coronavirus is here to stay just like the flu or common cold.

Incidentally, that you would think that only 50 or 100k people could die in the US by Dec 31, 2020 is a clearer statement of your detachment from rational thinking than any argument I could

provide. As of right now, the count is 39,015, and even ignoring the thousands of home and nursing home deaths that have been documented as not counted, we will eclipse 50k in less than a month and 100k much sooner than Dec 31, 2020.

Second, of course I would, and you already know that. You *know* that I own up to my mistakes, because you publicly called me out on my being wrong about Ebola, and I owned up to that. Will you do the same if you are wrong about this? I have reasons to doubt, because some of what you believed when we had this exchange on facebook has already been proven false by the passage of time, and instead of reaching out and admitting it, you've written a passive aggressive post condemning my yet future predictions. It is

possible that, while I've been completely right about coronavirus so far, and you've been completely wrong, those trends will completely reverse. If that happens, I'll be very happy. But to act as if it is a predetermined, let alone likely outcome is dishonest, especially with zero acknowledgement of things where you already got it wrong and I got it right.

Third, it is strange that you are somehow holding me accountable for the fact that viruses and rumors of viruses have the power to cause you and others distress. Even if coronavirus ends up being far worse than you wish it was, it is nothing compared to the coming calamities that God has promised to send. Bad things are going to happen, and very many people will die. But he has not left us comfortless. He

promised us peace that the world can't give or take away. If you or others lack that peace, you can hardly blame me for that. I've literally spent years of my life trying to prevent that.

Let's suppose I'm dead wrong about the final body count. Is it not vastly dishonest to search for a snare in one thing I said while ignoring that the dozens of other predictions I have made about this event, all of which were extremely unlikely when I made them, have come to pass? How many predictions have to come true before you acknowledge even just one of them?

Applying the Lord's test, I wonder if you have applied this same standard to yourself and others like Denver Snuffer? I have shown I am willing to be wrong when shown my error. Have

you? I have defined set goal posts ahead of time to indicate whether I am right or wrong. Have you? How many would have to die before you would accept it as evidence that you are wrong? What would you do if you were shown to be wrong? Conversely, how many correct, unlikely predictions would someone have to make before you admit they were right?

Do you realize the irony of publicly promoting Denver Snuffer's easily debunked comments on corona--based solely on the fact that you believe he is a prophet--while falsely accusing me of doing exactly that when I have only made rational arguments about the same--many of which have already been proven true? Do you imagine Jesus would call this anything but gross hypocrisy? Do you expect Denver Snuffer to

"repent for trifling with souls and ask for your forgiveness" if the virus continues to kill? How many people would have to die before you write him off as a false prophet, according to your reasoning?

You said "One of the many reasons I blog anonymously is because I don't want attention drawn to myself." I would ask you this: Can this be true if you have told some people that you are the author of that blog? Have you? If this were true, wouldn't you still be required to accurately represent your opinions to your wife, kids, parents, fellow LDS, and church leaders as part of your covenant to stand as a witness of Christ and his truth at all times and in all places? Have you?

You said you were angry because of what I wrote. Why? Suppose I am 100% wrong about all future coronavirus predictions. What awful, extreme advice on coronavirus have I given? Fast for a meal where possible? Plant your own food just in case? Prepare for stock market crash, mortgage defaults, and high unemployment (all proven true, incidentally)? Use this situation to analyze how much trust in God you really have, and improve that? Is this nearly as "vain" and "evil" as you've claimed?

You said: "I would have hoped he would at least say that this was just his opinion." If you re-read the statements, you'll see they are full of "I believe," "this is what might happen", "this is what could happen," "this is likely," "this is very unlikely", "another possibility". I very clearly

stated not only my conclusions, but sufficient sources to justify or challenge it.

The wonderful thing about listing rational, evidenced arguments is that it invites conversation and debate. It gives everyone the opportunity to vet and challenge what is said so that a more accurate truth can be discovered by all parties.

What was your response to my dozens of rational arguments laced with research and news articles and common sense? "This is complete and utter bullshit." You said: "There's nothing rational to respond to in your diatribe that promotes fear and panic." The Lord says, "come! let us reason together." You say "this is complete and utter bullshit." I say "here are

dozens of arguments, peer-reviewed studies, and news articles." You say "there's nothing rational to respond to here" and dismiss it all as a "diatribe."

You said: "There is nothing more foolish or more cowardly in my view than to lead people astray with pretended authority from God." Is it fair for you or anyone else to assume that something I said is the Lord's word when I never said that? Is this pretended authority?

If I were saying something "with pretended authority from God," why would I do so by posting dozens of logical, rational, research or news article cited arguments that very clearly state my conclusion and the premises I used to reach it? I've given all the facts of where I'm

pulling this from.

Have you applied your same standard to yourself or Denver Snuffer? Have you supposed that everything that has been said is a purported message from God? Have you held yourself and others accountable to that standard when evidence arises that casts doubt on the wisdom of what they have said? Have you even held this standard to things that were outright claimed to be God's word? If not, what does this suggest about the honesty of your claims?

You said "Just because someone puts their name on something does not make them courageous." It is probably unwise to minimize what someone does while you are unwilling to do it. You may find that making clear public claims that are very

extremely contrary to conventional wisdom
costs more than you assume.

There is no reason to fear the pandemic. Trust in
God, do everything he says, and realize that
those who do this will have untouchable peace
in spite of any of the last days events we find
ourselves in, even if those they love die and even
if they themselves die.

There is no reason to respond to the truth with
anger. The truth makes us free. If we embrace
truth, we will always be better off than if we do
not.

There is no reason to be inconsistent in how we
act. Honesty is always right. If we are doing
something for a reason, we ought to ask if that

something is the best fulfillment of that reason.
If we say we are doing something for a certain reason, we ought to actually be doing it for that reason.

We ought not say things that we know are false or misrepresent reality. Doing so will only bring us unnecessary sorrow.

[1] - Edit 4/20/2020. I DID, in fact, say "Expect > 7 million dead in the USA over the next year from this." Thanks Mark for finding that.
Currently, there are 793,919 cases with 42,474 deaths. If you extrapolate that to the general population using the study-supported 1:1 symptomatic:asymptomatic rate, you get nearly 9 million dead. It's not exactly a wild prediction.

LABELS: [CORONAVIRUS](#), [DENVER SNUFFER](#)

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